



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
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News Release

MT. PROSPECT MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR ROLE IN COUNTERFEIT IDENTIFICATION RING

Chicago's top ICE agent: Zero tolerance for identification fraud

CHICAGO—A Mt. Prospect man who was a courier for a counterfeit document operation that provided fake identity documents to illegal aliens has been sentenced to 15 months in prison.

U.S. District Court Judge Ronald A. Guzman sentenced Juan Campos-Martinez, a 35-year-old illegal alien from Mexico, to 15 months in prison Dec. 21 for providing fake Social Security cards, Resident Alien cards – also called “green cards” - and Mexico drivers licenses to illegal aliens.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents assisted the Des Plaines Police Department in the execution of two state search warrants Feb. 26 in Mt. Prospect and Streamwood. A search of Campos-Martinez’s Mt. Prospect residence at 1966 Algonquin Rd. revealed numerous counterfeit documents hidden inside the oven, a laminator, and more than \$400 in cash. Campos-Martinez was arrested on the scene.

During a search at the home of Gustavo and Andrea Rios at 826 Flowers Ave. in Streamwood, ICE agents and Des Plaines police found computer equipment used to produce counterfeit documents, including three computers, a laminator, printers, scanners, photographic paper, logos of the now-defunct Immigration and Naturalization Service, and blank sheets of Social Security cards and green cards. In addition, approximately \$35,000 was seized from various locations in the home.

The subsequent investigation by ICE revealed that Campos-Martinez worked as a courier for Gustavo Rios. His job entailed receiving pictures and orders for different types of documents, delivering the orders to Rios’ house in Streamwood each night around 9 p.m., picking up the completed orders the next day, and collecting payment from the clients. Campos-Martinez was paid \$200 a week.

“ICE has zero tolerance for anyone making, selling, providing, or using fraudulent documents,” said ICE Special Agent-in-Charge Elissa A. Brown, who leads investigations in the Chicago region. “As

the 9/11 Commission pointed out, fraudulent documents are primary tools of terrorists and criminals that enable them to cover their tracks and move freely from place to place. The criminals who make and sell fraudulent documents will sell them to anyone, whether that person is an illegal alien, a violent criminal, or a terrorist. They do not care who the client is as long as they make a profit from the transaction."

Gustavo and Andrea Rios were arrested at the scene of the search and have since been convicted. They are scheduled to be sentenced in January.

Upon completion of his sentence, Campos-Martinez will be eligible for immediate deportation from the United States as a criminal alien.

"The 9/11 Commission emphasized that fraud in identification documents is no longer just a problem of theft," said Brown. "It's clear that fraudulent documents jeopardize national security. For instance, a person who successfully establishes a fraudulent identity might be able to get a job that gives them access to critical infrastructure like aircraft maintenance areas, power plants and military bases. This makes enforcement in this realm a priority."

One key tool to combat fraudulent document manufacturing and sales is ICE's Forensic Document Laboratory in Washington, D.C. It is the only federal crime laboratory dedicated to the forensic examination of documents. The ICE laboratory provides support to the investigations of ICE and other law enforcement agencies, and offers training in forensic document investigations.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.